

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 and 32-33 are pending in this application. Claims 31 and 34 have been canceled. Claims 1, 16, and 20 are in independent form. Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1, claims 17-19 and 32-33 depend from claim 16, and claims 21-30 depend from claim 20. Claims 32 and 33 have been amended to change their claim dependencies in view of the cancellation of claim 31. Claim 20 was amended to be more consistent with independent claims 1 and 16. No new matter has been entered.

In the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-22 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,774,603 to Liao and U.S. Patent No. 5,744,934 to Wu. Claims 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Liao, Wu and U.S. Patent No. 4,893,351 to McKee. Claims 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Liao, Wu, and U.S. Patent No. 6,371,535 to Wei et al. Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references for the reasons stated below.

Liao teaches a portable charging device 10 that has a body 11 with a base surface (not numbered) that is configured to seat on a surface. Liao teaches an input end 13 for receiving a plug 29 of an input cord 30. The input end is a receptacle that is positioned on the side of the charging device 10, not on the base wall of the device. Plug 29 is a conventional plug that seats inside the input end receptacle 13.

Wu teaches a power supply device 1 that, similar to the prior art device discussed in connection with Fig. 3 of the pending application, plugs directly into the wall such that the power supply device 1 is positioned directly against a wall receptacle. Wu discloses a plug member 4, shown best in Figs. 1 and 2, that slides into a chamber 11. The plug member is interchangeable to provide different types of plugs to the charging unit and seats flush against the surface that it is mounted to. Wu provides an output 3 that can be connected to charging terminals of a battery of a mobile phone (see col. 4, lines 13-16).

In contrast to Liao and Wu, the present claims require 1) an input receptacle defined in a base wall and 2) a plug configured to mate with a style of electrical outlet such that the charging unit is positionable at a remote location from the electrical outlet. Importantly, if Liao and Wu are combined, the combined teachings would position the chamber 11 and plug member 4 of Wu on the side of the charging unit 10 of Liao, where the input 13 is presently located, not on the

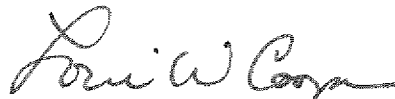
base wall of the unit. In addition, the plug of Wu, when combined with Liao, would not allow the Liao device to be positioned remotely from the electrical outlet. There is no suggestion within the combination of the references to position the input at any location other than where it is presently located on Liao. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion that the input 13 of Liao be positioned on the base wall. In addition, when the plug member 4 of Wu is coupled to the input receptacle of Liao, the plug tines stick out from the side of the device such that the device must be positioned directly against a wall outlet in order to operate. Thus, the combination does not provide a remote location for the charging unit relative to the wall outlet. For these reasons, applicants submit that the combinations of Liao and Wu do not teach the claims as presently pending. For the above-described reasons, applicants submit that claims 1-22 and 32-33 are patentable over the combination of Liao and Wu.

While McKee and Wei were cited in combination with Liao and Wu for teaching locking mechanisms that are claimed in claims 22-30, the deficiencies of Liao and Wu, as discussed above, do not render the claims obvious when further combined with McKee and/or Wei because the elements mentioned above are still missing. Thus, claims 22-30 are submitted to be allowable over the cited combinations for this, as well as other reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned via telephone if any remaining issues are found.

No fees are believed to be due with the submission of this Amendment. Should any fees be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account No. 50-1432.

Respectfully submitted,



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